

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01

IO-10 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /071 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:PDMOLINEAUX:YW

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

DOD/ISA - RBURCH

NEA/RA - RHOBBS

PM/SAS - DKEENE (INFO)

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P R 242342Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY SANA

USCINC"UR

COMIDEASTFOR

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, YE, SA

SUBJECT: YEMENI/SAUDI MILITARY COOPERATION

REF: A) SANA 2931 DTG 211430Z OCT 75, B) JIDDA 7108 DTG
221518Z OCT 75, C) STATE 251813 DTG 230058Z OCT 75,
D) STATE 122278 DTG 242324Z MAY 75

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE OBJECTION, WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO
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RAISE CURRENT STATE OF SAUDI THINKING AND ACTION ON ARMS

PROGRAM FOR YAR DURING YOUR MEETING WITH PRINCE SULTAN. YOU SHOULD STATE THAT IN USG VIEW, YARG HAS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE COMMON CAUSE WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND MODERATE ARAB CAMP GENERALLY, AND HAS REBUFFED NUMEROUS SOVIET ADVANCES. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO SUSTAIN THIS POSTURE WITHOUT MEANINGFUL SAUDI COMMITMENTS.

2. YOU SHOULD ALSO REMIND PRINCE SULTAN THAT IN ANTICIPATION OF VISIT TO RIYADH BY YAR CHIEF OF STAFF AL GHASHMI, USG PREPARED AND SENT TO SAG FOR CONSIDERATION SEVERAL LETTERS OF OFFER COVERING AN EARLY IMPACT PACKAGE OF SMALL WEAPONS FOR DELIVERY WITHIN TWO MONTHS, BASIC

WEAPONS FOR A YEMENI INFANTRY BRIGADE, AND ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES. WE HOPE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GHASHMI VISIT CAN BE COMPLETED SOON. CONTINUED DEFERRAL WILL ONLY RAISE DOUBTS IN YAR MINDS ABOUT OFT-STATED SAUDI COMMITMENT TO ASSIST YAR IN ORDERLY AND COMPREHENSIVE MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.

3. WASHINGTON AGENCIES ALSO NEED TO KNOW CURRENT STATE OF SAUDI THINKING, IF ANY, ON NUMBER OF ISSUES RAISED IN AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO PRINCE SULTAN OF MAY 31 ON YAR MODERNIZATION (REFTEL D) INCLUDING (A) SAUDI ATTITUDE ON PROCEDURE FOR SIGNING LETTERS OF OFFER AND PAYMENT; (B) SAUDI ATTITUDES ON ORGANIZATION OF YEMENI INFANTRY BRIGADES; AND (C) SAUDI ATTITUDES ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAINING OF YEMENI MILITARY PERSONNEL. IF EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RAISED THESE QUESTIONS AT APPROPRIATE STAFF LEVEL WITHIN SAG, IT SHOULD DO SO SOONEST AND REPORT RESULTS.

4. QUESTION OF U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS UK INVOLVEMENT IN CONDUCTING ANOTHER SURVEY OF YAR COVERED IN REFTEL C. YOU SHOULD NOT RAISE SUBJECT WITH PRINCE SULTAN, BUT IF HE RAISES SUBJECT, YOU SHOULD TELL HIM THAT WE HAVE FELT THAT STILL ANOTHER SURVEY AT THIS TIME WOULD BE OF LITTLE PRACTICAL VALUE AND BE SEEN BY YARG AS ANOTHER DELAYING TACTIC. KISSINGER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE254115
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PDMOLINEAUX:YW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750371-0547
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751022/aaaaatwd.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SANA 2931, 75 JIDDA 7108
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YEMENI/SAUDI MILITARY COOPERATION
TAGS: MARR, MASS, YE, SA
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006